

Record

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Motorcyclists, Baptists invade Sturgis

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The small town of Sturgis in Oktibbeha County plays host each August to one of the largest motorcycle rallies in the U.S. — and Mississippi Baptists were there with an elaborate evangelistic outreach to a people group as much in need of the Gospel as any other group in the world.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), the outreach included a world-class motorcycle show featuring Tommi Ahvala that attracted bikers and their families by the hundreds to the parking lot of Sturgis Church.

Ahvala, a two-time world champion from Finland, wowed the crowds with his precision maneuvers during multiple performances at the church, which served as headquarters for the Mississippi Baptist evangelistic outreach.

From spinning within inches of the audience rope line to jumping his specially-designed motorcycle over a prone person without ramps, Ahvala kept spectators' rapt attention right up to the time when the Plan of Salvation was presented at the end of his performances.

"It was a great success," said S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, Evangelism Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "There were more than 20,000 people at the rally. Tommi was a big draw and his performances turned out to be one of the highlights of the rally. There were at least 12 professions of faith and a



PRECISION RIDING — Finland native Tommi Ahvala, two-time world champion motorcycle stunt rider, thrills the crowd gathered at Sturgis Church in Sturgis, on August 21 with his precision riding show during the Little Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Ahvala's multiple performances, sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, drew large crowds that heard the Plan of Salvation after every performance. (BP photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

number of other decisions for Christ, as a result of people stopping to see Tommi's show. I was thrilled that Mississippi Baptists were there, taking the Gospel to a segment of our culture that we have largely ignored up to now."

Thousands of motorcycles lined both sides of Highway 12, the main thoroughfare of Sturgis. From antique motorbikes to the latest six-cylinder luxury touring models, just about every kind of motorcycle imaginable was represented at the rally.

Ray Brewer, a motorcycle enthusiast and member of Temple Church, Gulfport, put his young daughter Hannah Rey on the back of his Harley Davidson Ultra Classic 95th Anniversary bike and drove to Sturgis for the rally. He was busily handing out evangelism pamphlets on the morning of August 21.

"Our main purpose should be to reach a lost and dying world for Jesus Christ. Bikers need to hear the Gospel message, too," said Ray Brewer, a member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA). "This has been a blessing to us; we have been faithful attendees for years."

Jerry Gibson, CMA state coordinator and a member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, also attended the rally and served as one of the Mississippi Baptists who presented the Plan of Salvation after the Ahvala performances at Sturgis Church.

The Mississippi rally is nicknamed "Little Sturgis," after the largest motorcycle rally in the world held annually

in Sturgis, South Dakota. While almost anything goes at the South Dakota rally, Little Sturgis is intentionally toned down to be more family-friendly. Oktibbeha County is dry for beer, so much of the alcohol-related problems found at other rallies are greatly reduced at Little Sturgis.

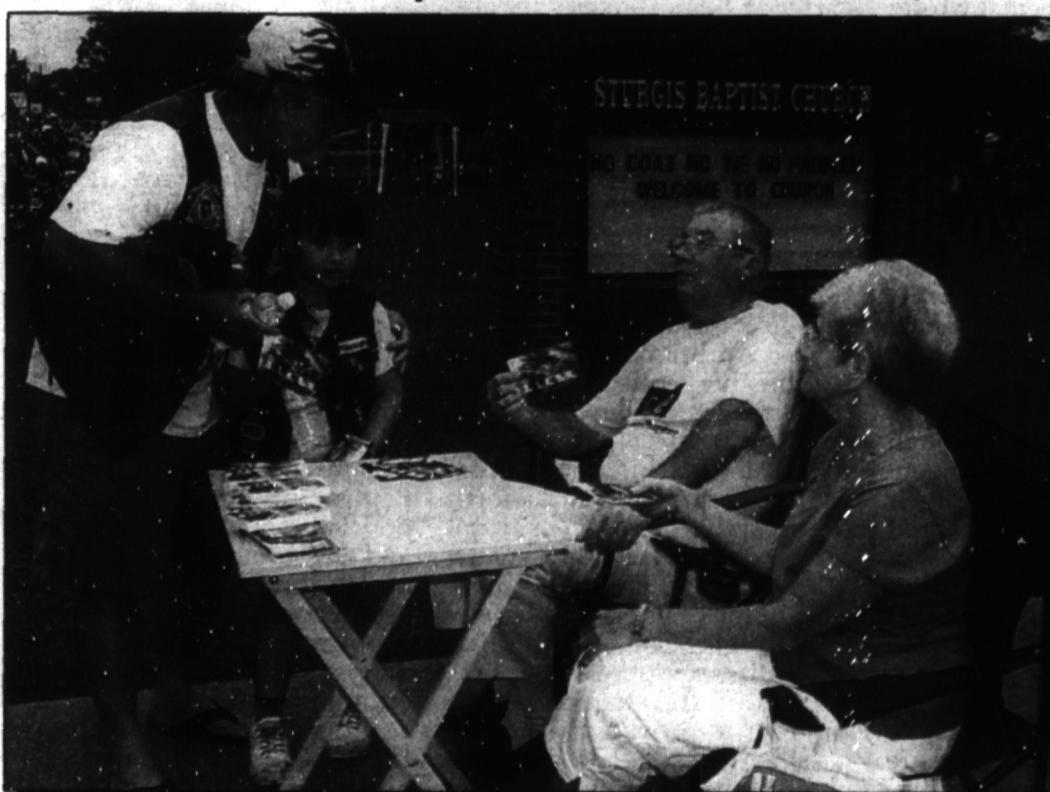
"I want to thank Golden Triangle Association and their missions director, Steve Lammons; the pastors and volunteers who were there; and the other Baptist associations that helped us at the rally. I also want to say special word of appreciation to the members of Sturgis Church and Pastor Russell Mord for hosting us," Adkins said.

He also expressed appreciation for the assistance offered by the Mississippi chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association and ABBA, the Arkansas Baptist Bikers Association.

Adkins said he is in the process of evaluating the convention board's participation in this year's rally, the first time Mississippi Baptists have been involved in the seven-year-old event.

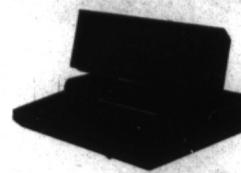
Adkins said no decision has been made on participating in the 2005 Little Sturgis rally, but he said is hopeful Mississippi Baptists will have a presence there for years to come.

Evangelism activities sponsored by MBCB are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. For more information on MBCB evangelism activities, contact Adkins at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: esmith@mbcb.org.



SPREADING THE WORD — Ray Brewer (left) and his daughter Hannah Rey (second from left), members of Temple Church in Gulfport, pick up additional evangelistic pamphlets from Ray Edwards (second from right) and his wife Anne at the Little Sturgis Motorcycle Rally August 21 in Sturgis. Ray Brewer is a member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association. The Edwards, members of Unity Church in West, were volunteer workers posted at Sturgis Church during the rally. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
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Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Bill Clinton, and the meaning of 'values'

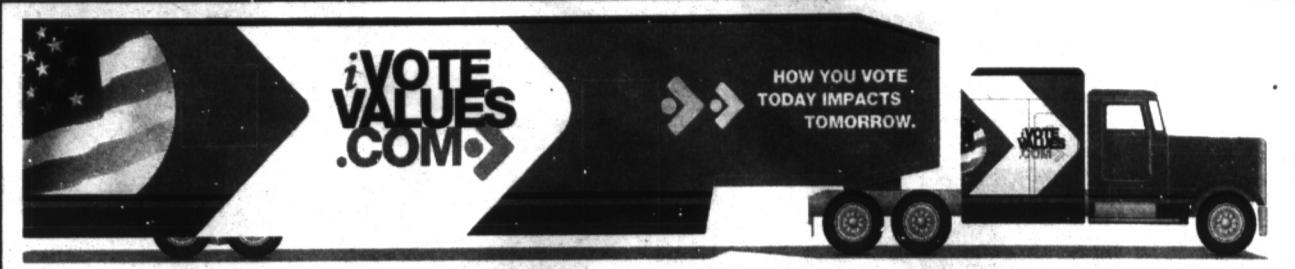
Well, well, Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, the nation's most prominent serial adulterer and liar, has just announced he has acquired values. Don't get too excited, though, until you hear him out.

"I looked at the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ...and one of their leaders was wearing a button he was giving everybody else that says, 'I'm a values voter' — implying that those of us that didn't agree with

them didn't have any values. And to them, values are anti-abortion, anti-gay rights, concentration of wealth and power. But as I said, Jesus didn't have much to say about what they say are the values of Christians today. And yet, these people really do believe they are in possession of the absolute truth."

According to Baptist Press, the source of this information on Clinton's recent speech at ultra-liberal Riverside Church in New York City, it was not clear whether he was referring to Republicans or Southern Baptists when he said "these people."

No matter. Clinton, who professes to be Southern Baptist, went on to detail his own values: "I have never met anybody that was pro-abortion, and that's not what pro-choice means. It just means we don't criminalize mothers and the doctors. I'm not ashamed to believe that gay



ROAD READY — In addition to its website, the iVoteValues.com voter mobilization and education effort will feature a specially outfitted tractor-trailer in a tour of cities across the U.S. The non-partisan iVoteValues.com campaign aims to register new voters and encourage all voters to remember their values as fall election balloting nears. (Photo courtesy of ERLC)

people shouldn't be discriminated against, and I don't think Jesus ever had much to say about that."

Furthermore, "My values compel me to be concerned about an economy with no new jobs, incomes going down [and] poverty rising," said Clinton.

"Don't let somebody tell you're not a good Christian because your views on certain issues don't fit the party line of the values voter crowd. And remind them that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory and that all of us see through a glass darkly and all of us know only in part," Clinton concluded.

The source of the former president's angst seems to be the iVoteValues.com campaign, a growing non-partisan effort to register new voters for the upcoming fall election and encourage all voters to consider their values when they mark their ballots.

"It's amazing to me that when we start encouraging people to vote values, they think they're being attacked. Are they not

confident of their values?" asked Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville and point man for the Southern Baptist Convention's involvement in iVoteValues.com.

Undoubtedly, Clinton is sweating this voter initiative because he fears it could actually have an impact on the direction of the country. To many people in his political camp, placing values at the forefront of the national agenda is the kind of threat they most dread.

Why? Perhaps it is because they know they are failing the people of the American heartland — the area of the country between New York City and Los Angeles they cynically refer to as "flyover country."

Thank you, Mr. President, for reminding us how far out of touch are many of the people of your liberal political and religious persuasion, and how far we have to go to win the nation over to a true understanding of the meaning of Christianity.

INSTITUTION REPORT:

Baptist Medical Center and charity care

By Kurt W. Metzner, President/CEO
Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center has compassionately met the healthcare needs and concerns of our community for more than 93 years. You can be assured we take our mission of providing health care to all people regardless of their ability to pay very seriously.

Recently Baptist Medical Center and many other fine hospitals across our country have been attacked. On June 17, plaintiff lawyers filed the first wave of lawsuits against not-for-profit hospitals. Since that time suits have been filed against approximately 500 not-for-profit hospitals in more than 23 states.

Three Mississippi hospitals have been affected. Lawsuits have been filed against St. Dominic Memorial Hospital in Jackson and Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, although not named in a lawsuit, has reached a settlement agreement with plaintiff lawyers.

While plaintiff lawyers have leveled many accusations, there seem to be two central themes. First, they contend not-for-profit hospitals have failed in their obligation to provide government required charity care. Secondly, they claim uninsured patients are charged more, then unduly pursued for collection. While these accusations may seem straightforward, they are not.

At Baptist, we view charity care as central to our mission of Christian healing. We have led the way in providing needed healthcare services for the poor in

our community who truly cannot pay. It is through wise stewardship of our resources that we are able to provide charity care. A claim Baptist has not met our obligation is preposterous.

Plaintiff lawyers also contend not-for-profit hospitals charge the uninsured more than any other group of patients. The truth is, Baptist has one fee schedule for all patient charges.

However, Medicare alone determines how much Baptist will receive for services provided to Medicare patients. Managed care plans, through contractual relationships, negotiate discounted rates for their members. For uninsured patients, Baptist offers a range of discounts and payment plans.

It must be pointed out that not all uninsured patients are the same. There are individuals who are truly unable to pay for insurance coverage. These receive charity care. There are also individuals who are uninsurable. These receive charity care or discounts.

However, there are also individuals who are able to pur-

chase health insurance but who have made a personal, conscious choice to be uninsured. Because of the rising cost of health insurance, the number of individuals in this last category is increasing. Those who are uninsured by choice should not be afforded the benefit of charity care.

At Baptist, we have policies regarding payment from patients who have no insurance but have adequate financial resources to meet their obligation. Additionally, we have responsible collection procedures for those who choose not to pay. Charity care is provided for those who truly can not pay.

In central and north Mississippi, there are several hospitals with the word "Baptist" in their name. Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson is not affiliated with any other "Baptist" hospital in the state or region.

In order to provide the healthcare services needed in our community, Baptist Medical Center must charge for the resources used to treat patients. If the hospital does not take in enough money to operate, we

will eventually have to close our doors. Our only source of income is payment for services rendered. Baptist Medical Center receives no funds from the federal government or state government or from investors or grant programs.

The rising cost of health care has been under discussion in our country for many years. In our opinion, these lawsuits represent a sweeping and misguided attempt to use the federal courts to rewrite national healthcare policy. These lawsuits filed against not-for-profit hospitals will not increase the poor's ability to pay for services nor improve the health insurance coverage of our population but it will cost all of us millions of dollars in legal fees. When hospitals must pay attorneys' fees to combat these accusations, the legal expenses have to be passed along to patients.

The important issue of health care for the uninsured in the United States is very complex and must be addressed by Congress. We firmly believe that Baptist and other not-for-profit hospitals are part of the solution and should not be made targets of lawsuits. Nationwide class action lawsuits cannot solve the problem. However, they can handsomely benefit the plaintiff attorneys involved.

No matter the outcome of these cases, Baptist has always provided and will continue to provide charity care to those truly in need. It is our mission; it is a responsibility we willingly accept.

Three years later, 9/11 still fresh in memory

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

For some, the images have faded into recent history. For many more, however, there are searing memories that will never go away. As the third anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches, a pair of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers looked back at their time in New York City after the attacks and recalled the many opportunities for ministry they encountered.

Paul Cassibry of Clinton, a longtime Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteer, remembered his arrival in New York City shortly after the attacks.

"We were approaching the city on Interstate 95, which had a spectacular view of the World Trade Center. Where the towers should have been, all I could see was smoke coming up from the site. That was just awesome," said the retired U.S. Army chaplain and former educator.

Cassibry, who made three trips to New York City after the attacks to help residents, recalled the tremendous need of people just to talk with someone, to tell someone their story — where they were, what happened, their missing loved ones.

"The firemen, the police, and the other emergency personnel were especially torn between being at their posts and wanting to go down to Ground Zero to help search for their missing friends and co-workers. We heard that everywhere we went," he said.

The hurt and desperation



TEARFUL IMAGES — One of the most powerful images of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks remains fresh in the minds of many: Lt. Col. Ellen McArthur's display of an American flag pulled from the World Trade Center's ruins. (BP Photo)

felt by so many New Yorkers, who had lost so much, provided the Mississippi Baptist volunteers with many opportunities to talk with about hope and faith issues in the context of Christianity, said Cassibry.

Shortly after his arrival in New York City, Cassibry was assigned to the American Red Cross center where family members came to seek information on their missing loved ones. "That gave me the chance to minister not only to the victims, but also to the people helping the victims who were also hurting and searching for answers."

Cassibry, an uncle of

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Kay Cassibry, points to what is for him one of the most important elements of what happened on 9/11. "The big thing is, don't forget," he said.

"There are vivid memories that I'll certainly never forget," said Don Gann, who was pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry, and a member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force when he was sent to New York City in the weeks after the attack. He is now a consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and remains heavily involved in the department's disaster relief programs.

"I remember Ground Zero being almost surreal. The noise was so loud from all the heavy machinery at work. I'll never forget the smell, because I'd never smelled anything like it before or since. It was sort of an acid smell," said Gann, who most recently served with the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force during their current activation in Florida.

Gann recalled when the families who had lost loved

ones at Ground Zero were escorted into the area for the first time, to see where their loved ones had died.

"It had been about a month since the attacks. We weren't involved in the process, but from where we were working we could see them going in. There was a chaplain assigned to each family member — and many of them were Southern Baptist chaplains. You wanted so much to make things right for those people, and then you realized there was only so much you could do. You couldn't replace their loved ones," he said.

Gann was heavily involved in Operation Dust Out, where Southern Baptist volunteers helped New Yorkers restore their apartments by cleaning up the



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Anti-gamble
emphasis set
for Sept. 19

Anti-Gambling Sunday will be observed on September 19 in Mississippi Baptist churches and across the Southern Baptist Convention. To help promote the emphasis, the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) has books, posters, colorful bulletin inserts called Lifelights (\$4.95 for 50), and various pamphlets (20 for \$4.00) that deal with the issue of gambling. Orders may be placed by calling ERLC at (800) 475-9127, or by faxing orders to (615) 242-0065.

For more information on anti-gambling efforts in Mississippi, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: cwright@mccb.org

Looking back

10 years ago

Led by the Vatican as a controversial summit on world population nears, critics of the United States abortion policy charge Vice President Al Gore with misrepresenting the Clinton administration's position.

20 years ago

Bettye Bingham, secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Evangelism Department, designs four banners to be used in the MBCB Church Music Department's 40th Anniversary celebration, held in associations across the state.

50 years ago

Mississippi College students Felix Snipes, Frank Lowe, and Rob Roby lead in a successful youth revival at Mize Church, Mize. There were several rededications and conversions.

CONTENTMENT

You seldom hear much about contentment these days. The exercise of having, maintaining, and nurturing a contented spirit is a rarity. While we are a fabulously well-to-do society, it is hard to find people who are content. In America, obesity is a far bigger problem than starvation, but we magnify our hunger pains. Our freedoms far exceed the limitations on our liberties, but we put the spotlight on what we do not have. We talk about unemployment rates being up and wages being down, but still we complain each day we have to get up and go to work. There are those that would argue that our discontent is a really good thing because it drives us to be better, desire to do more, and seek to achieve at the highest level. There is some truth to that, but on the other hand there is an exercise of our wills before God that brings about a peaceful contentment that is overlooked, ignored, or forgotten in so many circles.

It is the wisdom of God expressed through the pen of the Apostle Paul in the Letter to the Philippians when he writes: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." Paul had learned that in the abundance of things or with nothing you can be content with what you have and where you are. It is a work of grace in our lives. You can't just decide to be content. God has to enable you, empower you, and undergird you in your contentment to understand that you can live without some things and some achievements and also to keep your emotions and thought life in check so that you will not drift off into experiences of grief or bitterness because



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

you are not content.

Recently, Dean Doster, the executive director of the Louisiana Convention, was telling me about his young grandson, who was soon to have a birthday. His grandmother was asking him what he would like to have and he told her about a certain toy. Then she said, "What if I cannot find that exact color and kind of toy that you want?" The young grandson looked his grandmother in the eye and said, "Well, you get what you get and you don't get upset." The words of wisdom of a child struck the heart of a grandmother and a granddaddy. Dean asked his grandson, "Where did you learn that?" He told him, "At school." That is a lesson to learn whether at school, at home, or at church.

I am convinced that there are some folks that would not be content if they owned a pleasing stick. Seriously, there are some people who are not happy unless they are mad. Nothing suits them and they live with an attitude in their heart and a demeanor reflected in their face that says, "I am not content with life."

I remember years ago a little boy at our church, who was the youngest in a house full of kids. He was seldom content with his situation. One morning as he came to breakfast he sat down at the table and his mother placed before him his

breakfast which included a scrambled egg. His lips poked out, and his body language began to scream, "I am not happy." The mother asked, "What is the matter son?" "I didn't want a scrambled egg." "Oh, what did you want?" "I wanted a fried egg." The caring and obedient mother went back over to the stove and fixed an egg like she knew he would like it, took the scrambled egg off, replaced it with his special order, and brought it and put it in front of him. Nothing changed! His spirit and his look remained the same. The mother asked, "What is the matter, son?" Angrily the little boy said, "You put the egg on the wrong side of the plate." Children need to be taught to develop an attitude of contentment, but there are also lessons that we must learn and relearn, apply and reapply all through life. If you are going to develop a contented heart just think about a few of these lessons that would be helpful.

First of all keep in mind that life is not fair. I wish it was, but it isn't. The best do not always win and the worst do not always lose. At times the godly are penalized and the rascals seem to be rewarded.

A second thing to keep in mind is that regardless of what is happening good, bad, or otherwise God's grace is sufficient both to meet our needs and to turn

situations into good. Sometimes when it looks like evil is winning we want to throw up our hands, walk away, and quit. The Bible is very clear that God is able to take even the worst of people or circumstances and move them ultimately and eventually to be good. So many times I have seen people walk through the worst experiences in life only later to say I wouldn't want to do it again, but I would not take anything for it. I am a far better person because of it. God taught me some things I would have never known. I understand other people's needs far better. There is a trust factor involved in contentment. We believe God can work all things for good even when we do not see how it can happen at the moment.

The third thing to keep in mind is that contentment has much more to do with our spirit and our right thinking before the Lord than it has to do with having, getting, achieving, and succeeding. Our Lord Jesus lived in perfect contentment in a world that misinterpreted Him, where friends let Him down, where enemies constantly harassed Him, and where ultimately evil appeared to be the victor. All of the time throughout His life all the way to the cross and to death He lived out His closing words, "Into thy hands I commend my Spirit." He trusted God through it all. Write this down in your heart and sometime during this day God may remind you of the wisdom of a child when he said, "You get what you get and you don't get upset."

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Welch to visit Mississippi on Sept. 9

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bobby Welch will visit Mississippi on September 9 during his whirlwind bus tour of the U.S. promoting increased baptisms in churches across the convention.

Welch will stop at Colonial Heights Church in Jackson at 10 a.m. for a rally entitled, "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge! Witness and Win One Million," in which he will encourage Mississippi Baptists to play a part in his

vision for the SBC to baptize one million people between June 2005 and June 2006 — more than twice the current rate of baptisms.

"Such an opportunity for an evangelism transformation exists now for the SBC, and there has never been a time when the SBC needed to regain its unity of purpose more than now," Welch said.

The rally is open to everyone, and there is no admission charge. For directions, go to <http://www.colonialheights.org/serviceTimes.php>, or call the church at (601) 956-5000.



Welch

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Miss. churches celebrate significant anniversaries

CLINTON, Miss. (Special) — The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, housed on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton, has announced that 54 Mississippi Baptist churches will celebrate significant anniversaries during 2005, representing 6,475 years of service in Kingdom work.

"The Commission is delighted to assist churches in planning, executing, and evaluating special anniversary celebrations," said Edward L. McMillan, the Commission's executive secretary. To assist churches in those celebrations, McMillan said the Commission has scheduled a workshop for February 19, 2005, at First Church, Clinton.

For more information on the workshop, contact the Commission at P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3434. E-mail: mbhc@mc.edu. McMillan also urged churches celebrating

significant anniversaries in 2005 but not on the list below to contact the commission.

Each church with a significant anniversary in 2005 will receive a framed certificate and a letter of commendation from the Commission, McMillan said. Significant anniversary churches of which the Commission is presently aware, along with association membership, include:

175 YEARS

- Hickory Grove (Lauderdale)
- Mt. Pleasant (Newton)
- Providence (North Central)

150 YEARS

- First, Corinth (Alcorn)
- First, Kossuth (Alcorn)
- First, Pittsboro (Calhoun)
- Rocky Mount (Calhoun)
- Good Hope (Leake)
- First, Guntown (Lee)
- Pine Grove (Neshoba)
- Good Hope (Newton)
- Corinth (Pearl River)

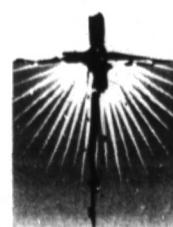
125 YEARS

- Harmony (Clarke)
- New Salem (Franklin)
- Center Grove (Gold. Triangle)
- New Salem (Gold. Triangle)
- Antioch (Itawamba)
- First, Carthage (Leake)
- Clear Branch (Lincoln)
- Cross Roads (Newton)
- Macedonia (Northwest)
- Jericho (Union County)

100 YEARS

- Vardaman (Calhoun)
- Van Vleet (Chickasaw)
- First, Woodland (Chickasaw)
- Pine Grove (Clarke)
- Phalti (Cov.-Jeff Davis)
- Meadville (Franklin)
- Longview (Golden Tri.)
- First, Leakesville (Green)
- East Howard (Gulf Coast)
- Grace Mem. (Gulf Coast)
- Stringer (Jasper)
- Lowry Creek (Jones)

- First, Sumrall (Lamar)
- Midway (Lauderdale)
- New Hebron (Lawrence)
- Nola (Lawrence)
- Freeny (Leake)
- Big Springs (Lincoln)
- Pearl Haven (Lincoln)
- Glading (Mississippi)
- Laurel Hill (Neshoba)
- Canaan (New Choctaw)
- Paul (North Central)
- Crenshaw (Panola)
- W. Union (Pearl River)
- Navilla (Pike)
- Algoma (Pontotoc)
- Rose Hill (Smith)
- Beech Springs (Union County)



**MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS**

HOECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Mt. Zion, Florence: Revival October 3-6; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., dinner and fellowship with Brown Hill and Mt. Zion will follow; James Washington, Jr., Brown Hill Missionary, Florence, evangelist; Jimmy Bailey, McDowell Road, Jackson, music; Don Kleeb, pastor; Richard and Brenda Sullivan, worship ministers; all are welcome.

Twin Lakes, Madison: 25th Anniversary and Revival September 12-15; Sunday, worship with note burning at 10:30 a.m. and dinner on the ground following; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; George Berger and Doran Henry, worship leaders; all are invited.

Monticello, Monticello: Revival September 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m., with men's luncheon at noon Tuesday and senior adult breakfast at 9 a.m. Wednesday; Ken Smith, evangelist; Jon and Suzanne Rushing, music; local law enforcement officers and firefighters will be honored Sunday morning to commemorate 9/11.

Clear Branch, Wesson: Revival September 12-15; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, First, Vicksburg, evangelist; Tim Morris, Bethel, Monticello, music; Wayne Moak, pastor.

Crestview, Petal: Revival September 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ricky White, preaching; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Bobby Shurden, pastor.

New Zion, Liberty: Revival September 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. with dinner following on the grounds; 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Creel,

evangelist; for more information, call (601) 657-4829.

Steele, Forest: Revival September 6-8; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Tony Massey, music; Reggie Williams, pastor; all are invited; for more information, call (601) 469-4567.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: September 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; meal at noon; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; James A. Case, guest speaker; Edward Rhinehart, music director; The Smiths, music; Willie T. Welch, pastor.

Eastwood, Indianola: Revival October 3-6; Bob Hill, Calvary, Cleveland, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, One Way Ministries, music.

Sandersville, Sandersville: Revival September 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Dubose, First, Minden, La., evangelist; James Jolly, Oakland Grove, Laurel, music; Donnie Parker, pastor.

Ruth, Ruth: Homecoming September 12; services, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.; fellowship

hall dedication will follow; noon meal; Talmadge Smith, Lincoln County Director of Missions, guest speaker; The Providentials, music; all are invited.

Liberty Hill, Pope: Revival September 12-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Terrell McGregor, preaching.

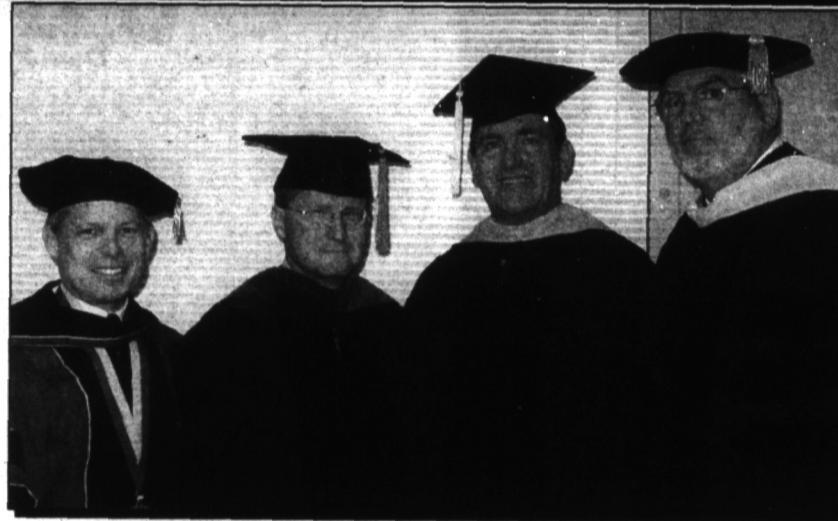
Friendship, Columbus: Revival September 19-22; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Melvin Mordecai, preacher; Tim Andrews, music; John Gainer, pastor; all are welcome.

COLLEGE/SEMINARY NEWS

A Wild Game Dinner: a Mississippi College athletics fundraiser, will be held September 7 Anderson Hall, B.C. Rogers Student Center, on the MC campus, Clinton. A reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and the banquet at 7 p.m. Billy Joe Cross will prepare the dinner. Archie Manning will be speaking. For more information, contact (601) 925-3341 or turman@mc.edu.

Twenty students graduated from the one year old master of science in nursing program August 7 at **William Carey College, Gulfport** campus. Enrollment figures for the fall include 22 new students and five returning students for a total of 27. The undergraduate nursing program has set record breaking figures with 175 declared nursing majors beginning school in the fall. Marilyn Cooksey, WCC nursing professor since 1991, will serve as coordinator of the graduate program.

Mississippi College held its summer 2004 graduation commencement ceremonies July 31 in A. E. Wood Coliseum, MC



Royce, Waller, Prevost, and Hasselman

campus. Approximately 132 students received degrees. Lee G. Royce, MC President, conferred degrees. Presiding Justice Supreme Court, William L. Waller, Jr., delivered the commencement address. David Prevost, Minister of Music at Calvary Church, Tupelo, brought the invocation. Gerald Hasselman, associate professor, School of Education, brought the benediction. Pictured (from left) are Royce, Waller, Prevost, and Hasselman.

Thomas P. Jamieson: Slayden, received his Doctorate of Theology with a concentration in missiology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 7.

Pictured is Jamieson. He is currently employed by The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Los Angeles.



Jamieson

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No BR issue on Sept. 9

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on September 9. Regular deadlines for the September 16 issue will remain in effect.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 1994

RTA ZU XRNA ITHY

HZUG, ZYP NX NH HZRH

QU XYIDZH GU? PNXH

QU TYH HZRH N GIXH

LU RLYIH GQ CRHZUO'X

LIXNTUXX?

EIVU HPY: CYOHQ-TNTU

Clue: Q = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle:
Psalm 70:4

JUST FOR THE RECORD



The Providentials



George Martin, Jerald Welch, and Jim Futral



Youth of Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown

LifeWay Church Buses
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www.carpenterbus.com

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For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



**Wellington
Associates,
Inc.**

The Providentials Quartet will be in concert at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, September 5 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (228) 392-5622. Paul Crowley is pastor.

The GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, were recently recognized by receiving charms/bracelets for completing World Ventures and badges for missions work throughout the year. Paul Smith presented the awards. GA leaders are Sissy Lloyd and Debbie Clark. Pictured (from left, front) are Mauri Suggs, Jordan Haynes, Laynee Claire Marchant, Maggie Lloyd, (back) Jade Wrenn, Paula Smith, Taylor Brower, Morgan Clark, and Julia McClellan.

On August 1 Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, recognized their pastor, David



Robert Perry and David Grumbach

Grumbach, for five years of service to the church. Robert Perry presented Grumbach a plaque in appreciation.

George Martin, Jerald Welch, and Jim Futral, MBCB, are pictured cutting the ribbon to the official opening of the new

Holmes Baptist Association multi-purpose building in Lexington July 18. Futral brought a special dedicatory message. Most of the construction was completed by volunteer labor, including installation of the metal roofing.

Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown, recently sent a mission team to Arlington, Texas, and New Orleans, La. Ten professions of faith were made by children during the week. The students shared testimonies at Crystal Springs Church and Bunker Hill Church, Columbia. Danny Stevens is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Whitney Dyess, Emily Ladner, April Purvis, Olivia Herring, Kayla Stevens, Kole Stringer, Lindsey Beard, Orry Thomas, Abby McCain, Jessica Stodghill, and Forrest Stodghill, youth pastor.



GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton

James E. Messer Ministries
Presents **2004
EVANGELISM
BIBLE
CONFERENCES**

Sunday 9/12/04 - Wednesday 9/15/04

First Baptist Church Florence

Dr. Dwight Smith, Pastor
102 East Main Street
Florence, MS 39042 • 601-845-7578

Sunday 9/12 at 6:00 pm Special Music
Music Evangelist Phil Willis & Children's Evangelist John Yates

Monday 9/13 - Wednesday 9/15

12:00 Noon FREE LUNCH • Evangelist James Messer

Evening Music at 6:30 pm • Preaching at 7:00 pm

Sunday 9/12 • 10:30 am & 6:30 pm
Emir Caner • Southeastern BTS • Former Muslim

Monday 9/13

Junior Hill • Evangelist • Hartselle, Alabama

Tuesday 9/14

Ergun Caner • Liberty University • Former Muslim

Wednesday 9/15

Harold Danley • Evangelist • Elaine, Arkansas
Jimmy Jackson • Pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church • Huntsville, Alabama

Children's Worship • Sunday 10:30 & 6:30 • Mon - Wed 7:00 pm

Special Music at 6:30 pm

Monday • The Bennetts ~ Tuesday • Bible Tones

Wednesday • Sons of the Father & Endless Praise

Bro James is scheduling now for 2005

call early to reserve your first choice dates: (800) 653-6652

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE, TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 2, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

SINGLES Missions Lab

24 Hour Extreme Makeover

- hands-on ministry
- testimonies
- fellowship
- worship
- celebrations

September 24-25, 2004
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Registrations must be postmarked by **September 8, 2004**. Refunds will not be available after that time, but substitutions may be made.

Sponsored by MBCB WMU; Men's Ministry & Discipleship and Family Ministry
For information, please contact Tammy Anderson at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org, or download a registration form at www.mbc.org or http://www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/calendar.aspx

Singles MissionsLab Registration

Contact person _____

Home () _____ Work () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fax () _____ E-mail _____

Church membership _____

City _____ Association _____

No. of females in group _____ No. of males in group _____

(Please attach the names, t-shirt sizes, addresses, phone numbers and E-mails for each participant you are registering.)

LODGING: (choose one)

GUEST HOUSE: \$14 per person, includes linens

CABINS: \$8 per person, does not include linens

MEALS: (choose package or individual meals)

 \$25 total meal package or

 \$7 Fri. Dinner, \$5 Sat. Bkf., \$6 Sat. Lunch., \$7 Sat. Dinner

LODGING COST \$

+ MEAL COST \$

+ MINISTRY FEE \$ **5.00**

SUBTOTAL \$

X # of participants

= TOTAL PAID: \$

YOUR TEAM'S MINISTRY CHOICE:
(register each team separately)
— Light construction/weatherization
— Children's ministries (Backyard Bible Clubs, etc.)
— Acts of Kindness (acts helping people)
— Social ministries (food, clothing)

Make checks payable to Camp Garaywa and mail to:

Camp Garaywa, 312 Camp Garaywa Rd., Clinton, MS 39056

Optional lodging at nearby hotels: Comfort Inn (601-924-9364), Days Inn (601-925-5065), Hampton Inn (601-925-9393), Holiday Inn Exp. (601-924-0064)

Coming soon for all your teachers and workers

Teaching Children



Impacting Families

First Baptist Church, Biloxi • November 5-6, 2004

Special Ministries Retreat

September 10-11, 2004

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

For Exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older),
their pastors/ministers,
parents, teachers and friends.

There will be games, Bible study, singing and
lots of fun for all participants. The theme is "Rickshaw
Rally - Racing to the Son."

Registration begins 3 p.m.,
September 10. The retreat con-
cludes at 1 p.m., September 11.
Cost is \$35 and includes
overnight lodging and three
meals. Please bring one adult
counselor for every five campers.



Annual Missions Celebration

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada • October 8-9, 2004
Mississippi WMU's final 125th anniversary celebration



Kay Cassibry



Betty Davis



Jim Futral



Wanda Lee

Friday sessions:
Worship at 12:45 p.m.
Breakout sessions at 3:30 p.m.
Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday sessions:
Breakfast for former members of
Mississippi WMU Executive Board at 7:30 a.m.
Breakout sessions at 8:45 a.m.
Closing worship celebration from 10 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

- The Singing Churchmen in concert
- Missionaries and missionary parents
- Missions Banquet at First Baptist Church, Grenada
- Associational and church displays depicting God's faithfulness
 - Preschoolers on Parade
 - Personal interviews by age levels
 - A drama team and more!

Child care will be provided by registration only.
Call Kerron Moorman at 662.226.5316. Reservations
will be taken up to 2 weeks before the event.

A section for deaf interpretation will be provided
during the worship celebrations.

33rd Annual

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

October 1-2, 2004 • First Baptist Church, Corinth, Miss.



Dinner Speaker
Robin Jones Gunn

Portland, Oregon

A best-selling, award-winning author of
over 46 books with 3 million copies of her
titles sold worldwide

Registration
at 9 a.m. on
Friday

TRAINING AT THE CROSSROADS

For more info, contact Communication Services at 601-292-3378 or 1-800-748-1651



33RD ANNUAL STATE CLM CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Corinth – October 1-2, 2004
Friday, 9 a.m. - 8:15 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Yes, I want to attend the 2004 Church Library Ministry Conference.

Name _____

(List additional names and addresses on a separate sheet.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____ (home) _____

Church Name _____ Association _____

I need _____ reservation(s) for the Friday lunch. I need _____ reservation(s) for the Friday dinner.

Cost per person - \$20. The registration fee includes lunch, dinner and registration packet. No refund for any meals not taken.

TOTAL (Number of persons x \$20) \$ _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS ... SEPTEMBER 22, 2004

Please attach a list of names for whom the reservations have been made. RESERVATIONS ARE NONREFUNDABLE AFTER September 22.

Make check payable to the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.
Mail to: COMMUNICATION SERVICES/CLM • PO Box 530 • Jackson MS 39205-0530

**JANUARY
BIBLE STUDY
PREVIEW CLINICS**

**"Hope When Believers Struggle:
Studies in the
Gospel of Mark"**

**Leading the studies this
year are:**

Ivan Parke
Assistant Professor of
Christian Studies and
Philosophy, Mississippi
College, Clinton
(*Delta State; NWMSCC;
Lauderdale Association*)

Eugene Dobbs
Retired Associate
Executive Director, MBCB
Church Ministries Consultant,
Philadelphia
(*FBC, Biloxi; William Carey;
Pike Association*)

Thad Moore
Pastor, Poplar Springs
Drive Baptist Church,
Meridian
(*Blue Mountain; Garaywa;
Lake Tiak O'Khata*)

September 20, 2004

- Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
- BSU, Delta State University, Cleveland
- FBC, Biloxi

September 21, 2004

- BSU, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia
- Camp Garaywa, Clinton
- William Carey College, Hattiesburg

September 23, 2004

- Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville
- Lauderdale Association Office, Marion
- Pike Association Office, McComb

Registration begins
at 9 a.m.

Conference
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For more info, contact the Sunday
School Department at 601-292-3292 or
1-800-748-1651 or jellis@mbcb.org.

**Mississippi Baptist
Ministers' Wives
Conference**



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Gaye Martin

October 25, 2004

**First Baptist Church, Jackson
(Fifth Floor)**

1:15 to 4:45 p.m.

For more info:

**Contact the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department**
**Phone: 800.748.1651. ext. 305
or 601.292.3305**
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



Ever wonder what it is like to have a "dream job?" Just ask Elizabeth Scaife, who considers her job as the International Intern with the BSU of the University of Southern Mississippi exactly that. In the last two years, Elizabeth has completely revamped the outreach ministry because of her love of Christ and a passion for international students.

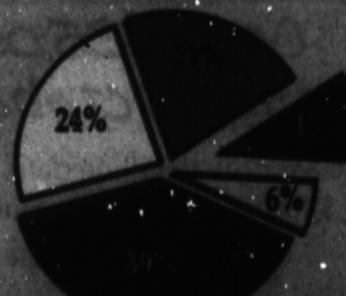
The largest ministry Elizabeth oversees is Coffee Talk. Each Monday night, around 40 international students and 25 American students gather and enjoy coffee, donuts and personal interaction. According to Elizabeth, "We're building relationships of love to have the honor of sharing Christ." At least four international students have accepted Christ during the past year as a result of the ministry efforts.

"People are people - American or not. I'm teaching students to celebrate differences and build relationships amidst cultural diversity," says Elizabeth. Interns like Elizabeth minister to international students on campuses throughout Mississippi. Gifts to the Margaret Lackey Offering support these ministries which strive to reach people from different cultures while they are in America and return them to their homelands as witnesses of Christ.

Mississippi Baptist State Missions
Margaret Lackey Offering

Goal: \$1.65 Million

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Evangelism - 10%
\$165,000

- Retreat Ministries - \$650,000
- Church Planting - \$400,000
- Missions Mobilization - \$340,000
- Human Needs - \$25,000

Margaret Lackey Offering funds are used to support the work of the Mississippi Baptist State Missions. This includes the work of the International Outreach Ministry, the work of the International Interns, and the work of the International Students.

Pray this day for...

September 3-16, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"God's friendship needs cultivating. God's daily approach to His people requires a daily response and a daily yielding to His will."

-The Quiet Time, Inter-Varsity Fellowship

For: (1) Season of Prayer for State Missions Emphasis (MS Emphasis); (2) Baptist Foundation Month (Baptist Foundation Emphasis); (3) Discipleship Training Launch Day (D&FM); (4) "Pray for the Philippines," a global prayer emphasis, scheduled for September, with the goal to facilitate prayer from Christians around the world.

Pray for Mr. N, a Hindu priest in a village in central Karnataka, India. When asked whether as a Hindu priest he had peace in his heart, he said he did not. Then a worker told him about Jesus and prayed with him. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work and continue to draw him to Jesus.

Churches in the Ngoni area of Malawi and Mozambique are full of energetic youth, who in most churches, organize themselves into a choir. They often travel to other churches as a ministry of encouragement. They need you to lift them up in your prayers that they will gain wisdom and moral courage.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinics, FBC, Corinth; Gulfshore Baptist Assembly; 6:30-8:00 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Pray for R, a devout Sundanese in Indonesia who follows a world religion. She spent many hours with a believer and asked many questions. Pray that her spiritual eyes will be opened.

Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, requests that we pray that God will guide the preparation plans for a national media campaign as part of the "What Now America?" campaign to reach and baptize 1 million lost people in 2005. It will need to focus on major population centers as well as language groups.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinics, Emmanuel BC, Grenada; Petal Harvey BC, Petal; 6:30-8 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants & Ministry Office SkillShops, Camp Garaywa, 8 a.m., 14th-4 p.m., 16th (P/LD); (3) Pray for Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev of Moldova (northeast of Romania).

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS; (2) Casablanca is the business capital of Morocco and biblical values need to permeate this city. At the risk of losing his job, one professional took a stand for integrity in his workplace and was respected for it. Pray for Moroccan business leaders to come to Christ.

For: (1) See You at the Pole, school flag poles, 7:15-8 a.m. (Evan.); (2) One of the important tasks involved with working with volunteer groups is follow-up. Please pray for the believers who live in the communities visited this summer, as well as the churches that they will follow up on the contacts made.

For: (1) AMD/MBCB Prayer Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, noon, 9th-noon, 10th (MS); (2) As friends live and work in Libya, pray for the men of peace that God has already raised up to help them. Ask that the Lord would use them all to bring many Libyan Arabs to faith in Christ.

For: (1) Pastor Focus Day, North (P/LD); (2) Bible Drill Clinics, Parkway BC, Clinton; Central BC, Meridian; 6:30-8 p.m. (D/FM); (3) Scott Crawford is an Army chaplain serving in the 25th Infantry Division. Please pray for soldiers in Afghanistan to be saved, grow in Christ and return home safely.

Among the South Asians of Eastern Africa, ask God to bring entire families to faith, as misunderstandings and persecution result when a part of the family chooses to follow Christ. Ask God to give those who choose to follow Him strength, grace and endurance.

For: (1) Hispanic Fellowship Annual Meeting, TBA (CPD); (2) Egypt is a major summer getaway for many who live in the Gulf States. Pray that people of influence will come into contact with believers and will return to their countries with changed lives.

While walking through a Hui (whey) neighborhood in China, some workers were called over by a man who had a stroke. One of the workers was moved to pray publicly for him in Jesus' name. Pray that God would heal this man and that it would be a powerful testimony to the power of God in Christ Jesus.



NOVEMBER

Ageless GA.
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
October 22-23, 2004

Mother/Daughter overnight is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (ages 5 to 105+) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$35.00
Deadline: October 8th

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$40 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

Please remember these WMU procedures:

- Please mail in your registration with payment.
- Reservations may not be made by phone. Groups wishing to bunk together must register together.
- Whenever possible, please send one check for the entire group.

Encourage a MK with
a birthday card!

MISS CAITLYN A. BRASWELL - 11-1-93

Parents: Larry & Alicia
General Evangelism
Eastern South America

MISS ALICIA MARTIN - 11-4-94

Parents: William & Cynthia
General Evangelism
Western South America

MISS BETHANY G. FORTENBERRY - 11-5-85

Parents: Robert & Margaret
General Evangelism
Southern Africa

MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY - 11-8-91

Parents: Timothy & Rebecca
Literature Distribution
Middle America

MISS INGRID R. GAMEZ - 11-11-84

Parents: Tris & Martha
Community Outreach
Western Europe

MR. PAUL W. HARRISON - 11-13-84

Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

MISS EVA N. CARLISLE - 11-14-83

Parents: Jason & Susan
Church Growth Consultants
Global Resource Team

MISS MARISSA J. BLEDSOE - 11-15-96

Parents: David & Laurie
General Evangelism
Eastern South America

MR. DAVID C. DOYLE - 11-15-03

Parents: Dwayne & Melissa
Community Outreach
Central & Eastern Europe

MR. NATHANIEL D. CARLISLE - 11-16-86

Parents: Jason & Susan
Church Growth Consultants
Global Resource Team

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS - 11-19-98

Parents: Raymond & Cynthia
Sports Evangelism
Eastern South America

MR. FRANK C. MULLINS - 11-26-98

Parents: Frank & Lynn
Church Planting
Western Europe

MISS JADI A. FOSTER - 11-27-00

Parents: Michael & Miranda
Strategy
Middle America

MISS LINDSEY J. PURL - 11-28-88

Parents: John & Amy
Business Management
West Africa

PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:
Child's name and parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

JUST FOR THE RECORD



The Sloanes, Harvey Sewell, pastor; and the Freemans

Wallerlville Church, Union County, held a deacon ordination July 25. Pictured (from left) are Virginia Sloan, Charles Sloan Jr., Harvey Sewell, pastor, Terry Freeman, and his wife Janet.



Millican, Foster, Greer, Spencer, and McDaniel

What Difference will you Make?

No one else has your life experiences, skills or personality. No one else can help Baptist's patients and visitors exactly like you.

How will you make a difference? Volunteer Services offers the opportunity to help people in need of comfort.

Become a volunteer. Call Baptist Volunteer Services at 601-968-1210.



Jane Cutrer has volunteered at the ICU/CCU desk at Baptist since 1992. Each year, she helps sew 300 pairs of very special socks made for patients having heart procedures in the Outpatient Cardio Pulmonary

Celebrating 50 years of our volunteers' dedication and compassionate spirit.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Spirit of Healthcare

Alison Bedsole as the leader. Members of the youth team were Kacie Hawkins, Kimberly Hollis, Leigh Hutcheson, Ally Pfeiffer, Ashley Silas, and Emily Sullivan with Martha Hutcheson as the leader. Pfeiffer continued to the quick drills in Jackson.

Dwight Sibley, pastor of Calvary Church, Vicksburg, for the past 11 years, resigned June 27. He is available for revivals, pulpit supply, and interim supply. Sibley can be contacted by calling (601) 638-7029.

First Church, Gautier, in conjunction with Church Communication Network, will present Breaking Free live via satellite September 18 at 10:30 a.m. Speakers include Stormie Omartian, Bruce Wilkinson, John Townsend, David Jeremiah, and many others. Musician John Tesh will also be featured. For more information, contact (228) 497-4050 or 1stbcofg@bellsouth.net or visit www.fbcgautier.com.

North Columbia Church, Columbia, held a deacon ordination for Eric Allen Lucas July 25. Pictured (from left) are Mike Grenn, pastor, Stephanie Lucas, and Lucas.

Gunter Road Church, Florence, ordained Robert Ramage and Jeff Rowzee as deacons July 18. Pictured (from left) are Gene Jordan, pastor, Ramage, Rowzee, and Irving Forrester.

Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia, recently held deacon ordination services. Pictured (from left) are David A. Millican, interim pastor, and new deacons Frank Foster, Jeremy Greer, Bud Spencer, and Alan McDaniel.

New Life Fellowship Church, Oakland, will hold a gospel singing featuring New Day Quartet September 11 beginning at 7 p.m. Jerry W. Smith is pastor. All are welcome. For more information, call (662) 623-0009.



Mike Green, pastor; Stephanie and Eric Allen Lucas

The mission team from Shady Grove Church, Batesville, held Backyard Bible Clubs at an apartment complex and the Calvary Church Daycare in Pascagoula July 26-30. The team presented a mission trip program at Calvary Church July 28.

Canaan Church, Philadelphia, held revival services August 20-22. Arthur Ben, interim pastor, was the evangelist and Felton John led music.

Pearson Church, Pearl, will host a Gospel Fest on September 4 at 6 p.m., featuring the Still Water Trio, Restoration, and Harmony & Grits. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken. Hamburger and hot dog dinner plates will be sold starting at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 939-3618.



Mt. Zion Youth Bible Drill participants, Columbus



Jordan, pastor; Ramage, Rowzee, and Forrester

Coker Creek Village Adventure & Retreat Center

A Christian facility for groups size 8 to 400

Activities include:

Rafting the Ocoee • trail rides • climbing tower & mountain biking

A relaxed mountain retreat with:

Great meals • meeting rooms • bunkhouse lodging • activity staff • 300 acres & streams

Special events include:

• Last Fling of Summer • the colors of Autumn • Harvest celebration & Winterfest

Weekend specials: arrive Friday, leave Sunday
Arrive Saturday noon, leave Sunday afternoon

12528 Hwy 68, PO Box 96, Coker Creek, TN 37314
Phone: 423-261-2310 • website: www.cokercreekvillage.com
For Reservations Call: 1-800-448-9580

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PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

Authors cite Christian apathy toward civics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Failure to carry out a divine mandate for Christians to uphold God's standards in civil government could result in dire consequences for nations, churches and families, Ken Connor and John Revell write in a new book.

Within the pages of *Sinful Silence: When Christians Neglect Civic Duty*, Connor and Revell unpack insights from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah concerning a believer's responsibility to participate in the civil process of his or her nation.

Connor is an attorney in Washington, D.C., and former president of the Family Research Council. Revell serves as associate editor of SBC LIFE, the official journal of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sinful Silence, released by Ginosko Publishing, presents "biblical principles that will remove any doubt as to God's heart on the issue of civil involvement," the authors write in the introduction. "We have attempted to present a compelling case from the writings of the prophet Isaiah — a case that will likely alarm you — but a case that will hopefully draw you into a closer walk with God."

The book's opening chapter argues that when citizens have a vote in the selection of their leaders, God holds both the leaders and the citizens accountable for the actions of the government.

"Through the Scriptures we can determine God's expectations of our government," Connor and Revell write. "... [E]ach of us has direct access to the decision-making process in our states and in our nation. We have no excuse! If we are irresponsible in our voting or if we fail to vote, we cannot escape accountability before God."

When Christians recognize violations of God's standards in government but

fail to address those violations, they may experience a hindered relationship with the Lord, the authors write.

"If the majority of Christians know God's heart on issues of civil immorality but continually refuse to address these civil sins through their vote and access to elected representatives, then it stands to reason that ...

God would reject the majority of our worship in this nation," Connor and Revell write.

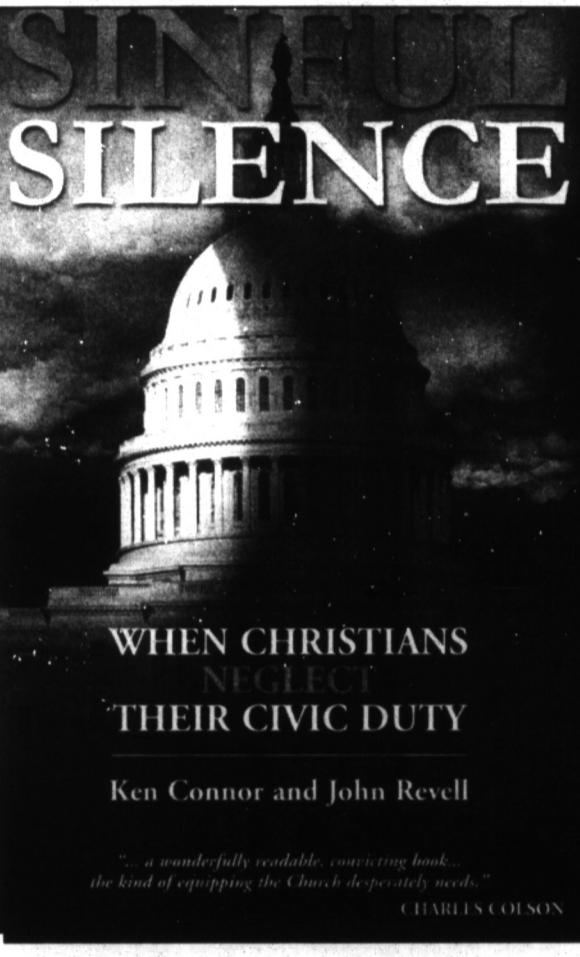
In the middle chapters of the book, the authors examine God's standards of justice for civil governments: Chapter three outlines general principles that a just government must uphold while chapter four specifically looks at the moral shortcomings of government in America. Chapter five argues that God's own character and the standards to which He holds His people demand that Christians speak out against governmental injustices.

"When we remain silent at the polls or when we don't call our representatives to action in these areas, the watching world could falsely conclude from our actions that God is not really concerned about these issues," the authors write. "They then could logically conclude that the vocal minority of politically active Christians don't truly represent God's heart, but are instead 'religious right' fringe fanatics who should be dismissed and ignored as such."

The remedy for governmental injustice in America is for believers to reject the world's values and refocus on God's priorities in the areas of justice, relief for the oppressed and protection for the helpless, Connor and Revell write. Christians must pray for their nation, become informed of the important issues and exercise their right to vote, they write.

"In order for us to address the civil immorality in our nation, we must first repent of (our) sins and turn our love back to the One who loves us," the authors write.

"When we do, we will once again embrace the most pressing issues — priorities of the One who is King over all civil authorities. Perhaps then He will have mercy upon our nation."



Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following
prayer with God in
your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

MISSISSIPPI STAFF POSITIONS

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, Goodman, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time pastor. A traditional SBC, resident membership 95. Send resumes or contact to Main Street Baptist Church, pastor search committee, Billy May, chairman, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079.

ORGANIST POSITION, WYNNDALE Baptist Church. Call Bob Jones at (601) 371-2429 or fax resume to the same number.

CHURCH PIANIST NEEDED, Grandview Baptist Church, 900 South Pearson Rd., Pearl, Miss. 39208. Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:30 pm and Sundays 10:30 am - 11:30 am and 6:30 pm. \$100 per week. Please contact Mike Hennington at (601) 624-9389 or call the church office at (601) 939-4215.

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The conference includes children's worship services at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on September 12,

and at 7 p.m. on September 13-15. For a complete conference schedule, see the advertisement on page six of this issue. For more information, go to www.jamesmesserconferences.com, or call First Church, Florence, at (601) 845-7578.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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CORRECTION:

Memorial -

August 9, 2004

Clifford Bell



GRACIOUS GIFT — Celeste Cade, BCV Public Relations Associate, receives a generous gift of \$1,000 from Mr. Jimmy Killough, owner of Tombigbee Finance Co., Inc. in Tupelo.



GEARING UP FOR SCHOOL — Mrs. Betsy Aycock of The Sonshiners, Mature Adult Ministry of First Baptist Church, Flora presents school supplies to Dr. Rory Lee, BCV Executive Director.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Desiring to Know God Better

Exodus 33: 7-23

By Geneva England

"He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock and covereth me there with His hand."

The words of this song, based on Exodus 33:22, remind believers that God is so powerful that no one can experience His full manifestation and live. The words further praise God as our salvation and protection.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Leading up to this week's scripture, Moses had gone up Mount Sinai in seclusion with the Lord to receive the first tablet of the Ten Commandments. While there, God told Moses to go back to the Israelites immediately because they had "corrupted themselves" (Exod. 32:7).

The rebellious Israelites had demanded that Aaron make them a golden calf to worship while

Moses was away. If Moses had not pleaded for their forgiveness, God's wrath would have utterly destroyed them. God's words concerning the faithless Israelites reveal His plan for all humankind throughout the ages: "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book" (Exod. 32:33). This clearly teaches individual responsibility.

Furthermore, the Israelites' great sin led Moses to set up a Tabernacle of the Congregation outside of the camp away from the sinful people where he and those seeking God could meet with the Lord (Exod. 33:7).

II. GOD'S PRESENCE [GLORY]

God's glory [sometimes translated Presence] is a recurrent thread throughout the Bible. Understanding its significance helps us know God better.

While Moses and the children of Israel wandered in the wilder-



England

ness, God's Shekinah glory descended upon the Tabernacle in the form of the cloudy pillar; however, the golden-calf sin was so abominable to God that He declared, "I will not go with you" (v.3 NIV). Only through Moses's intervention did God relent (v.17).

God's glory later appeared at the dedication of the Temple in ~960 BC when "the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because the glory...of the Lord filled his temple" (1 Kings 8:10-11, NIV). Again, the repeated sinfulness of the Hebrew nation was so great that "the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple" in 592 BC (Ezek. 10:18).

With the advent of Christ, His glory was partially revealed to Peter, James, and John at the transfiguration when His "countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening" (Luke 9:29). In Hebrews 1:3 Christ is described as the "brightness of his glory," the light piercing darkness.

III. MOSES' REQUESTS

Moses wholeheartedly sought God's Presence, acknowledging that God is the divine Teacher-Protector, the giver of every good gift. Thus, he requested God to "Teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you" (Exod. 33:13, NIV).

Secondly, Moses boldly requested a sign from God: "Now show me your glory" (v.18). He wanted assurance that God was still with the "stiff-necked" Israelites after their great sin. He feared that they would perish in the wilderness if God lifted His hand of protection.

IV. GOD'S ASSURANCE

Because Moses diligently interceded for the Israelites' sin and sincerely requested to learn more about God, God rewarded him in three specific ways:

First, God promised His "Presence" would go with Moses, and he would have "rest" (Exod. 33:14). Even though God still intended to "visit" [the Israelites'] sin upon them (Exod. 32:34), He blessed Moses with a special security throughout his leadership of the nation.

Second, God granted Moses'

request not to destroy Israel. He further instructed Moses to depart the Sinai area for the Promised Land of "milk and honey" and even sent an angel to "drive out" the enemies (Exod. 33:1-3).

Third, Moses was allowed to see as much of God's glory as humanly possible, recorded as "back parts" (Exod. 33:23).

Dear Christian, as we seek to know God and His perfect will for our lives, our faith will grow. Remember, "Without faith, it is impossible to please [God]" (Heb. 11:6).

God is still in the saving and protecting business. All believers can testify to His grace, not on individual merit, but solely on what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

Looking back on our lives, we see that God has protected and comforted us throughout troubling times. Remember the beautiful promise in Psalm 46:1: "God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." God protected Moses in the cleft of the rock just as He protects His own today in the palm of His hand.

England is member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What Can I Believe

Luke 1:11-20, 65-68, 76-77

By James Walters

Luke acknowledged that many had tried to tell the story of Christ. From His birth to His ascension, there were those who felt compelled to write their version of the significant events in the life of Jesus. Luke's motivation in writing was stated at the beginning. His desire was to provide a friend, Theophilus, with accurate information and detail so that Theophilus might rest assured that the story was true. The Holy Spirit led Luke to write about events which would be of special interest to the spiritual needs of Theophilus.

When we hold the Gospel of Luke in our hands we are holding evidence of the work of God in our world. God spoke through Luke to Theophilus, but God speaks to us all through Luke.



Gabriel appeared to him, and like God usually does, gave Zachariah an even greater task.

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORK, 1:13-17.

Zachariah was to take on the added responsibility of being the father of the one who would become the forerunner of the Messiah.

God keeps people who are busy serving Him, busy serving Him. It is people who say yes to God in the everyday duties of life who are selected consistently to do even greater things. To a Foreign Missionary home on furlough a thoroughly secularized, comfortable individual once said, "Man, I could never go to any place away from my friends and my parents. I couldn't live without my coffee in the morning, like you do, and my peanut butter sandwiches. I couldn't live without my cable, air conditioning, and electricity. The missionary stopped him and replied, "Don't worry. God knows you

wouldn't do any of those things, and that's why He will never ask you to be a missionary."

BEING ASSURED OF GOD'S WORK, 1:18-20.

When Gabriel told Zachariah that his prayer for a son was going to be answered he couldn't believe it. At their age neither Zachariah nor his wife Elizabeth were physically able to be parents. Gabriel rebuked Zachariah for placing limits on what God could and could not do. "You will have a son, and you will name him John," Gabriel had said. "As a sign this is from God, you will be unable to speak until his birth."

What God chooses to do in and through any person is not subject to debate. Perhaps we too need to be rebuked for one reason or another as we haggle over our part in the purposes of God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORK, 1:65-68, 76-77.

Elizabeth gave birth to her son. Zachariah, who had not been able to say a word for nine

months, broke out in a melody of language. He couldn't be silenced. Gabriel had told him who the child would be and what purpose his life would fulfill; so, with enthusiasm Zachariah repeated those words of God to all who could hear him. Several miracles occurred on the same day. A child was born to an elderly couple; a dumb man spoke; the forerunner who would precede the Messiah had been born at last.

Maybe not today, but someday nine months from now, or nine years from now, we too will be glad God chose to use us. Just let somebody try to steal our joy then!

Along with the privilege to serve God in places that duty demands, comes the responsibility to serve God where duty demands. The big things we cannot make happen often do happen to those of us who place a premium on doing the little things we can do.

Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@moco.org

THE BAPTIST
Record

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Responding to God's Holiness

Isaiah 6:1-13

By Geneva England

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Merciful and Mighty," [the hymn based on v. 3] rings across the congregations, sometimes without the deep emotions needed for true praise of God in His awesome holiness. According to the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, "The biblical use of the term holy has to do primarily with God's separating from the world that which He chooses to devote to Himself."

Therefore, those people that do become separated from the sinful world through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ share in God's holiness, or His righteous nature, His perfection. These believers are referred to as saints [literally, "holy ones"]. They have been sanctified [set apart]. God alone is "majestic in holiness" (Ex. 15:11, NIV). Rev. 15:4 adds, "Who shall not

fear You, O Lord... For You alone are holy."

As a member of the Trinity and a part of God's holiness, the Holy Spirit was sent to comfort and direct believers after Christ's ascension and as such now indwells His people. We speak of the Holy Bible based on John 1:1: The Word was made flesh and dwells among us. Jesus is the personification of God's holiness. Thus, holy specifically implies the attributes of God in all His glory and manifestations.

Just as Isaiah confessed his sins before this holy God and was purged (vv. 5-7), we too must recognize the holiness of God and confess our sins. God is not just another god; He is the Creator of everything on, above, and below the earth; His Shekinah glory fills the earth through the light shed by Jesus Christ.



Isaiah's prophetic vision encompasses three dimensions of God's majesty—His throne, His train, and the temple (v.1)—the throne emphasizes His kingly powers; the train that filled the Temple bespeaks of both His totalitarian Kingship and High Priesthood; and the Temple is the focal point for worshiping God. [Hebrews 5 portrays the Old Testament High Priest as a forerunner of Christ's position.] Moreover, God's use of us in verse 8 suggests the Godhead.

In Isaiah's vision, seraphim, or heavenly beings, offered praise and adoration to God. Their worshipful—"holy, holy, holy"—proclaims that God is without comparison. These beings were filled with humility as demonstrated by their covering their faces with their wings (vv. 2-3). This offers an example to us of how reverent we should be in our worship of God.

When Isaiah saw this heavenly scene, he realized his sin-

ful state. Furthermore, he knew he had lived among sinful mankind. It was then that he expressed his distress: "Woe is me" (v. 5). Isaiah's heart was contrite; therefore, the touching of the coal of fire to his lips symbolically removed his sins and made him ready for the mission God had for him.

Isaiah then readily answered, "Here am I, send me" (v.8). His first three words were the same ones Samuel used in his commitment to God when God called him to be a judge and prophet (1Sam. 3:4,9). Other Biblical leaders responded in similar fashion including Jacob (Gen. 31:11), Moses (Ex. 3:4), and Ananias (Acts 9:10). Many present-day missionaries, answering that same call, have given up the luxuries of America—most often living in deprived areas—in order to tell others of the love of God. God's call is consistent as is His holiness and glory.

In verses 10 and 11, God instructed Isaiah to warn the Israelites that because of their past sins their hearts were fat [unreceptive]; their ears, heavy [never understanding]; and their eyes, blind. Isaiah had a

message of doom to deliver, but he served God faithfully.

Historically, Isaiah's vision came at a low point in Israel's history. The deaths of Judah's King Uzziah in 740 BC and Israel's King Jeroboam III in 753 BC marked the beginning of the end of both kingdoms. [For Israel the demise was immediate; for Judah more than a century elapsed before their judgment.] Yet, Isaiah was ready to answer God's call to prophesy to these hard-hearted Israelites.

We live in like times—times when only God can bring hope to a decaying world. Jeremiah tells us that the heart "is deceitful above all things" (17:9). In contrast, believers must have a deep love for righteousness and serve God faithfully.

Our generation—our nation—must acknowledge God's sovereignty and especially His holiness in order to avoid a punishment similar to Israel's. God has blessed America, but we must obey His commandments. The Bible provides ample warning to a sinful nation.

England is member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Who Is Jesus?

Luke 2:8-20, 47-51

By James Walters

The Christmas message in this passage will be given in December. For this week the focus for us relates to three Biblical truths. God sent His Son Jesus to be the Savior. God wants us to know Christ. We are to declare to others who Jesus is.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE SAVIOR, 2:8-14.

Only Luke tells us the full account of the shepherd's response to the message of the angels concerning the birth of Christ. The shepherds were up all night watching their flocks, protecting their investment. Cosmic events were transpiring in nearby Bethlehem, and they were told of them. Messiah's birth was too important to miss; so, they left their flocks and

went to see for themselves. Joseph, Mary and their child were found just as the angel told them. The shepherds praised God for what they saw and left to tell everyone that Messiah had been born.

The shepherds did not change Joseph and Mary's circumstances; neither did the angels. Had God asked Mary or Joseph how His angels could help them, perhaps, like some of us, they would have wanted the angels to go see the inn keeper. Maybe the keeper would provide better accommodations, or at least give them his own room.

Mary and Joseph must have had great expectations at the beginning when they learned that they were going to be the parents of the Son of God. Their



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satisfaction must have come from being the persons God called them to be. Their life was rewarding because doing the will of God was more than enough compensation for what they had to endure. Their son would bring salvation to the world. Their deepest joy and

greatest priority was in being the parents of the Son of God. They were helping to change the world by being a good mom and dad. Praise God for sending Christ and praise be to God for his good parents who stuck it out through times of hardship.

TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE SAVIOR, LUKE 2:15-20.

The angels came to the shepherds with the good news. In turn, the shepherds came to Mary and Joseph to declare the same good news, and then left the stable to tell others. They were eyewitnesses. Experiencing God motivates us to want to see God at work in everyone's

life. Some things are too important to keep to ourselves, but also some things are so great a blessing to us that we want to encourage others by what we know about God. If we believe people outside Christ do not know what they are missing, is motivation a real problem?

We read in verse 19 that Mary tucked away the message of the shepherds and treasured them in her heart. Perhaps the greater impact of all Mary had seen and heard was internal. Mary's relationship to Christ was not a secret one. There was, however, a depth of wonder for her child which grew and later blossomed within as events in the life of Christ added to and increased her respect for who He was. Much the same experience is recorded in verse 51 where Mary, yet again, stored away in her heart a memory of her son which added to her understanding of who He was.

LEARN ABOUT GOD'S SON, 2:47-51.

As much as Mary and

Joseph knew about their son, there was much more to be learned. They found him in the Temple speaking with the educated sages of Judaism. Everyone of the adult listeners there were amazed at His well developed vocabulary, or His intellectual grasp of difficult theological questions, or the interest shown by this child for such unchildlike issues. There was much about Jesus which was impressive.

"Didn't you know I would be about my Father's business?" Jesus asked. The truth was that Joseph and Mary did not know. There was more for them to learn which meant there would be more for them to tell. Is this any less true for us? There is so much to learn about Christ even for those of us who have known Him most of our life. What we learn adds to what we have to tell. May God bless us with learning experiences this week which can develop into sharing experiences later on.

Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. E-mail attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing.

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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LITTLE STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

AUGUST 20 - 22, 2004 • STURGIS, MISSISSIPPI



AT THE CROSS — Sturgis Church in Sturgis (above, background) served as an unofficial gathering point during the August 20-22 Little Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, allowing motorcycle enthusiasts to use the property and facilities located close to the center of the rally activities. Members of the church and volunteers from around the state handed out bottled water and evangelistic tracts to the thousands of bikers in town for the annual rally. The church also served as the headquarters for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's evangelistic efforts during the rally. (BR photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

